

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7451

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GE, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO GDR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MFA/EE OFFICIAL BELIEVES FONMIN
BIELKA'S VISIT TO GDR PROVIDED TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN ISSUES OF INTEREST BOTH IN
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BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL/CSCE CONTEXTS. GDR WAS

FORTHCOMING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITH EXCEPTION OF STATUS OF AUSTRIANS STRANDED IN GDR AS CONSEQUENCE OF WAR. OFFICIAL SAID THAT BIELKA REFUSED GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO "INTERPRET" EARLIER STATEMENT OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY THAT INCIDENTS ON GDR BORDER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AS CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING, BELGRADE '77, AND CLAIMED BIELKA REMARK THAT FOLLOW-UP MEETING SHOULD NOT BE TRIBUNAL" DID NOT ALTER GOA POSITION IN FAVOR OF PREPARING "BALANCE SHEET" AT BELGRADE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. AUSTRIANS DETECTED NO GDR TENDENCY TOWARD BILATERALIZATION OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, AS THEY HAVE IN CASE OF HUNGARY. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA/EE ACTING DIRECTOR, DR. JOSEF MAGERL, TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 2 THAT OFFICIAL VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA TO GDR AUGUST 23-26 WAS USEFUL IN SPITE OF INAUSPICIOUS TIMING DURING FINAL DAYS OF BIELKA'S TENURE AND IN WAKE OF GDR BORDER INDICENTS. HE SAID AUSTRIAN OBJECTIVES WERE TO GET LONG-STALLED NEGOTIATIONS ON AUSTRIA-EAST GERMAN PROPERTY CLAIMS SETTLEMENT GOING AGAIN AND TO RESOLVE SOME THIRTY FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES OF INTEREST IN BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL/CSCE CONTEXTS. AUSTRIANS WERE THEREFORE RELIEVED WHEN GDR AGREED TO COMPLETE "LONG-OVERDUE" VISIT IN SPITE OF BIELKA'S IMMINENT RETIREMENT SINCE BIELKA'S SUCCESSOR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK IN GDR VISIT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. AS IT WAS, INVITATION WAS FIRST EXTENDED IN 1973 TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND THEN RENEWED TO BIELKA AFTER KIRCHSCHLAEGER BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1974.

3. MAGERL SAID GDR WAS VERY FORTHCOMING ON ALL HUMANITARIAN ISSUES EXCEPT NATIONALITY STATUS OF AUSTRIANS CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS STRANDED IN GDR AT END OF WORLD WAR II OR RETURNED THERE BY SOVIET CAPTORS. GDR STILL CLAIMED THESE AUSTRIANS HAD OPTED FOR GDR CITIZENSHIP BY ACCEPTING GDR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, WHEREAS GOA MAINTAINS ACCEPTANCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENTS WAS ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE ACT UNDERTAKEN TO SECURE RATIONS, RELIEF, AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT. MAGERL SAID EAST GERMANS WOULD NOT BUDGE ON THIS ISSUE, AND HE DOUBTED THEY EVER WOULD, ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED IN CONCLUDING "WORKING PROTOCOL" TO DISCUSS IT IN FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS. ON OTHER HAND, AUSTRIANS WERE PLEASED THAT ALL FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES WERE FAVORABLY SETTLED, AND IN THIS AS IN RECENT

SIMPLIFICATION OF FORMALITIES IN MARRIAGE CASES THAT

HAD REDUCED WAITING TIME FROM MANY MONTHS TO ONLY TWO,

MAGERL CONCLUDED GDR WOULD HAVE TO BE RATED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HUNGARY AND POLAND, ON POSITIVE SIDE, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ROMANIA, ON NEGATIVE SIDE, WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE BASKET III.

4. MAGERL SAID CSCE, PER SE, CAME UP ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S REQUEST THAT BIELKA " INTERPRET" CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S RECENT REMARK TO FRG JOURNALIST THAT SHOOTING OF ITALIAN TRUCK DRIVER AND OTHER INCIDENTS ON GDR BORDER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING, BELGRADE '77. MAGERL SAID BIELKA REPLIED THAT CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT WAS PERFECTLY CLEAR AND NEEDED NO INTERPRETATION. THIS WAS SAME REPLY, MAGERL NOTED, THAT GOA HAD GIVEN TO IDENTICAL SOVIET REQUEST OF AUSTRIAN EMBASSY AT MOSCOW. EMBOFF NOTED THAT AUSTRIAN PRESS SEEMED TO HAVE DIFFERENT VIEW, BUT MAGERL RESPONDED THAT BIELKA'S REMARK THAT BELGRADE '77 SHOULD NOT BECOME "TRIBUNAL" WAS NEITHER WATERING DOWN OF CHANCELLOR'S REMARK NOR ALTERATION OF GOA POSITION THAT VIOLATIONS OF FINAL DOCUMENT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND "BALANCE SHEET" ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION BE PREPARED AT BELGRADE.

5. MAGERL SAID ADDITIONAL BIELKA COMMENT THAT BORDER INCIDENTS REFLECTED POORLY UPON GDR IMAGE ABROAD ELICITED VOCIFEROUS HALF-HOUR DEFENSE OF GDR ACTION BY FISCHER, WHO PLACED BLAME FOR BORDER INCIDENTS ON FRG BECAUSE IT FAILED TO MARK BORDER
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ADEQUATELY FROM FRG SIDE AS CUSTOMARY WITH OTHER "INTERNATIONAL" BORDERS. IN THIS RESPECT AND ON OTHER GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, MAGERL SAID AUSTRIANS PARTICIPANTS IN BERLIN DISCUSSIONS FOUND EAST GERMANS "MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN EXPECTED", CONSISTENTLY AND INSISTENTLY ATTACKING POSITIONS OF THEIR ADVERSARIES. ON WEST BERLIN, FOR EXAMPLE, EAST GERMANS ACCUSED WEST OF VIOLATING AGREEMENTS AND ATTEMPTING UNILATERALLY TO CHANGE AREA'S STATUS; AND FISCHER TOLD BIELKA THAT MANY WESTERN-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN WERE CLEARLY ILLEGAL AND THAT WEST BERLIN'S INCORPORATION IN FRG ON PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

6. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION ABOUT TENDENCIES OF EASTERN COUNTRIES TOWARD BILATERALIZATION OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, MAGERL SAID NO RPT NO SUCH TENDENCY WAS DETECTED ON PART OF EAST GERMANS; INDEED, EAST GERMANS HAD NOT RAISED MATTER OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF KREISKY'S MRREMARK. HE SAID THAT SO FAR ONLY HUNGARY HAD APPROACHED AUSTRIA ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION IN BILATERAL SENSE. (MAGERL SAID WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE GOA EVALUATION OF HUNGARIAN PAPER ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION WHICH MFA DIRECTOR FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS LIEDERMANN HAD MENTIONED TO EMBOFF SHORTLY BEFORE WITH REMARK THAT, IN CURSORY READING, HE HAD FOUND PAPER FACTUALLY IN ERROR AND TENDENTIOUS. LIEDERMANN HAD SAID CAREFUL STUDY OF HUNGARIAN PAPER WOULD AWAIT HIS RETURN TO VIENNA.) MEEHAN

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